

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JOHANN 01392 031056Z

ACTION AF-10

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SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /097 W

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FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6143

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

USMISSIN GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 1392

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

DEPT PLEASE PASS AFL-CIO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, SF, ILO

SUBJECT: TUCSA GENERAL SECRETARY ARTHUR GROBBELAAR

REF: A. JOHANNESBURG 1208 (NOTAL), B. JOHANNESBURG 1210 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY TUCSA GENERAL SECRETARY ARTHUR GROBBELAAR PLANS ATTEND ANTI-APARTHEID DEBATES AT ILO AS OBSERVER IN ADDITION TO VISITING NEW YORK AND DUSSELDORF. HIS TRAVELS ARE BEING SPONSORED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN TRADE ASSOCIATION. IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE RLO, GROBBELAAR SAID HE WOULD PRESS FOR LEGAL RECOGNITION OF BLACK TRADE UNIONS IN THE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED CABINET COMMISSION N LABOR LEGISLATION. END SUMMARY.
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PAGE 02 JOHANN 01392 031056Z

2. ARTHUR GROBBELAAR, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE RACIALLY MIXED TRADE UNION COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA (TUCSA), PLANS TO DEPART JOHANNESBURG ON JUNE 8 WITH HIS WIFE TO OBSERVE THE WORKERS GROUP DEBATE ON APARTHEID SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 11 AND 12 AT 63RD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION (ILO). HE PLANS TO LEAVE GENEVA ON JUNE 19 FOR

NEW YORK CITY WHERE HE WILL SPEND THREE DAYS AT A MEETING SPONSORED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN TRADE ASSOCIATION BEFORE PROCEEDING TO DUSSELDORF.

3. ALTHOUGH GROBBELAAR WILL BE ONE OF THE KEY MEMBERS OF THE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED CABINET COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO SOUTH AFRICAN LABOR LEGISLATION (JOHANNESBURG 1210), HE IS CURRENTLY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE OF TRADE UNIONISM IN SOUTH AFRICA. IN ADDITION TO HIMSELF, HE BELIEVES THE COMMISSION WILL INCLUDE THE PRESIDENT OF THE ALL WHITE SOUTH AFRICAN CONFEDERATION OF LABOR, ATTIE NIEUWOUDT, AN INDIAN TRADE UNIONIST FROM TUCSA, TWO BLACKS AND THREE EMPLOYERS' REPRESENTATIVES IN ADDITION TO CHAIRMAN NICHOLAS WIEHAHN (JOHANNESBURG 1208). ACCORDING TO GROBBELAAR, THE COMMISSION WILL BE EXPECTED TO MAKE ITS REPORT TO THE CABINET BY THE END OF THE CURRENT CALENDAR YEAR SO THAT NEW LEGISLATION CAN BE CONSIDERED IN THE NEXT SESSION OF PARLIAMENT.

4. WHEN ASKED BY THE REGIONAL LABOR OFFICER WHETHER THE COMMISSION WOULD CONSIDER RECOMMENDING LEGAL RECOGNITION OF BLACK TRADE UNIONS, GROBBELAAR REPLIED, "IF IT DOESN'T I WILL BE SUBMITTING A NUMBER OF DISSENTING COMMENTS."

5. COMMENT: IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT UNLIKE THE THERON COMMISSION ON SOUTH AFRICA'S COLORED COMMUNITY THE FINDINGS OF THE LABOR LEGISLATION COMMISSION WILL BE REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE CABINET BEFORE BEING RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC.
KIRBY

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PAGE 03 JOHANN 01392 031056Z

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED AFL-CIO.

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